

which have crept into the medical profession, and so far as we are aware, the principle actuating us has been conscientiously lived up to. The verbiage of one or two of our criticisms has been questioned, and the cry of "inaccuracy" raised, much to the delight of some of the smaller journals, probably "published for profit and not for the profession." If there has been any error in the principle, we have thus far failed to have it called to our attention. Abusive adjectives are not arguments, and there is too much real work to do to pay any particular attention either to them or to thinly veiled insinuations of improper motives. Time will settle many questions, and we are quite willing to let the problem of motives await its solution in due course; some people are so constructed that they cannot believe the truth.

Elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL will be found the address of Dr. Morrison, read before the meeting of the Railway Surgeons' Association. It is to be commended for its excellent suggestions, particularly in the matter of frequent examination of water supply and conservatism in emergency surgery. It is certainly cheaper and easier to head off an epidemic than to subsequently discover its cause and stamp it out. The railway surgeon must often face conditions that are very perplexing and that tax his judgment to the extreme, and in just these conditions will the suggestion of conservatism offered by Dr. Morrison be of very great value. Not infrequently more strength is required to leave an injury alone than to operate immediately; but the final result may not be so satisfactory, so far as the wage-earning individual is concerned.

The investigations now under way in New York are very decidedly illuminating the inside manipulations of the big insurance companies. It is particularly interesting to note that no word of possible criticism attaches to the name of any medical director or employee. Indeed, quite the contrary, for it becomes more and more evident that these companies are well able to pay a decent fee for examinations, and this fact seems to be dawning upon the editorial intelligence of a number of medical journals about the country. It is a rank injustice that physicians should be paid less than \$5.00 for any examination, only that the few dollars thus saved may be added to the enormous sums of hoarded wealth which are kept on hand in New York for the purpose of manipulating Wall street and floating "undigested" securities. Keep pegging away at this question of cheap fees and eventually we shall see the time when the minimum fee will be \$5.00—as it should. Talk to your friends—against these cheap-fee companies; when possible, persuade them to take out their insurance in some one of the numerous good and sound companies that pay decent fees for careful

work. Let them know that a company paying for a cheap examination is going to get cheap, and to that extent unreliable, work, and that such work is a danger to the company, in the long run. If possible, refuse to make any examination for less than \$5.00, even if the agent does get mad and swear a little because he may have to pay the extra \$2.00 himself; it won't hurt him and the time required to make a thorough examination is worth \$5.00, or it is worth nothing. We can do a lot toward bringing about this reform if we will but keep at it; keep talking; keep refusing to make cheap examinations; keep explaining to prospective insurers what it means and how the big ones are gathering enormous cash reserves—partly at your expense. They can afford to pay \$80,000.00 salaries, but cannot afford to pay \$5.00 examinations.

The secretary desires to call the attention of members to the fact that the office of the Society, in the Y. M. C. A. Building, San Francisco, could possibly be of service more often than it is, if they would but use it as a sort of "clearing house." For instance, it very frequently happens that nurses desiring hospital appointments, or general work, apply to the secretary; we also have noted two or three stenographers who are perfectly competent to take medical dictation. Physicians desiring to go away for a time and who have no one at hand to take care of their work, could often be placed in communication with men who would be glad of the change and who would like the opportunity of thus substituting for the absentee. Furthermore, a number of the hospitals in San Francisco are now regularly notifying the office of the time of operations to be performed, and all visiting physicians are cordially welcome to attend such operations. A little coöperation, a little more effort to center these various lines of interest in the office of the Society, will very soon be found to largely effect the convenience of all.

Not a month and scarcely a week goes by that does not see some member of the Society come to the office and ask about a suitable location, or inquire whether we know of any one who wants to buy a practice or secure a location. Very frequently we are asked about office rooms and just at the present time we have on file a memorandum relating to some offices in San Francisco that could be obtained by an oculist and aurist to very good advantage. We also know of several locations which are for sale. It is no trouble to attend to these things, though doubtless some members are restrained from applying to the office for information under the mistaken belief that it is a bother to the secretary. The office of the Society should be a sort of central exchange for just such things and the secretary trusts that the members will so regard it and will not hesitate to apply for information from time to time.